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THE DETECTION AND REMOVAL OF MICROORGANISM CONTAMINATION

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention provides novel methods for the detection of chitinous contaminants of non-chitinous biological materials. The methods are accurate, highly reproducible, rapid and relatively inexpensive. The methods are well suited to commercial applications, particularly in the food and agriculture industry where biological materials (*e.g.* food products) are regularly screened for contaminants (*e.g.* insect, mold, fungus, *etc.*). In one embodiment, the methods involve contacting a biological sample with a probe that is a lectin that binds chitin, contacting the sample with a pectinase; and detecting binding of said lectin to a chitin where the binding indicates the presence of chitin in the biological sample.

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